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Fall 2010

INTERACTIONS: Newsletter of The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, Volume 16 Issue 4, Fall 2010

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INTERACTIONS

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**Mark your
calendars for the
WDM Conference
April 18-21**

Special points of interest:

- 14th WDM Conference
- New NWCO Training Program
- TWS On-line mentoring program
- Annual meeting minutes

Visit us on the web at:
<http://Wildlifedamagegroup.unl.edu>

LETTERS FROM KURT

A WORD FROM THE NEWEST WDMWG CHAIR

Greetings Wildlife Damage Management Working Group (WDMWG),

One month into my tenure as your Chair and I have got to say that I'm feeling invigorated – you, the membership, along with the need and opportunity in front of us, is energizing! For those I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, let me introduce myself. I have been a member of the WDMWG since its inception and involved in damage management and human-wildlife conflict throughout my career. Summer experiences addressing beaver damage issues for the Wisconsin DNR and USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services while an undergrad at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point formed my desire to conduct applied wildlife research and management. From the Point, I headed to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where I obtained an MS and PhD under the tutelage of Dr. Scott Hygnstrom. My graduate work, Scott's influence, and the opportunities afforded me cemented my desire to have a research career devoted to addressing issues

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

14th Wildlife Damage Management Conference Lied Lodge and Conference Center Nebraska City, Nebraska April 18-21, 2011

Make plans to participate in the 14th Wildlife Damage Management Conference on April 18-21, 2011 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. We will kick off activities with a field trip on the 18th that includes discussions of wildlife damage issues at the Offut Air Force Base, Fontenelle Forest, and Henry Doorly Zoo. Two general sessions and four concurrent sessions on pressing issues (tentatively bird airstrike, wildlife diseases, invasive species, rodents, and carnivores) will follow on the 19th and 20th. On the 21st, we will host a hands-on workshop on urban coyote management (participation will be limited to 40). An opening social and evening bonfire will facilitate networking, storytelling, and some down home Midwestern fun. The Lied Lodge and Conference Center (<http://www.liedlodge.org/>) is a world-class facility nestled in the Missouri River valley, with fine dining, a post-and beam décor, an

Olympic-sized pool, reasonable rates, and apple baskets full of amenities. Local attractions include the Arbor Day Farm, Arbor Lodge, Tree Adventure, and ArborLinks golf course to name a few. The spring turkey hunting season will be in full swing, as well as the early warbler migration. We promise that this will be one of the most comfortable, enjoyable, and educational conferences that you will ever attend. A call for abstracts and information on registration will be available soon. The Conference is sponsored by the TWS-Wildlife Damage Management Working Group.



GET INVOLVED WITH THE TWS ON-LINE MENTORING PROGRAM

TWS' Online Mentoring program is a great way to build professional relationships that will help advance a student's or young professional's career, while gaining knowledge from a wildlife professional. Already a professional? We are always looking for mentors to volunteer. It is easy to sign up, just go online to our [Online Mentoring Program](http://MENTOR.WILDLIFE.ORG) with your TWS Member ID number and register.

Want to help but don't have the time to contribute? TWS' Online Mentoring Program is the focus for TWS' 2010 Investor's Campaign. If you are interested in being a donor, please send your donations to The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814 with Investor's Campaign in the memo field. Contributions are tax-deductible.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE (CONT. FROM PG. 1)

associated with wildlife damage and disease management. While in Lincoln, I also dabbled in the private sector and started a wildlife damage management division in an established pest control company. I really enjoyed the work and my experiences as a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator were invaluable. For the past 12 years, I have been a Research Wildlife Biologist at the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), the research branch of Wildlife Services. At NWRC, my primary responsibilities have been related to disease and damage issues associated with ungulates. More recently, I'm beginning to delve into rabies, too. I am fortunate to have a position where I can see the positive impacts of my efforts and have the opportunity to work with a great cohort of colleagues.

My goal for our working group during my tenure as Chair is that we begin to play a larger role in addressing issues important to our field and more actively serve as a resource for TWS Council, state and federal agencies and organizations, and each other. Our working group is more pertinent and prominent than ever, now is an ideal time to expand our impact!

As an outcome of our membership meeting at the TWS Annual Conference last month, we initiated some new

activities. In partnership with the Wildlife Disease Working Group we are forming committees to produce technical reviews, which could lead to position statements or guidebooks, on *Translocation in Wildlife Damage Management* and *Euthanasia in Field Settings*. We are also putting together a committee to address education associated with *Shooting in Sensitive Environments*, focused on managing deer in urban areas. Additionally, we are forming a committee on feral cats to assist TWS on this important issue. Along with the standing committee we recently

formed to aid the National Wildlife Control Operators Association, we are quite busy. As you can see there is a lot going on, if any of these issues interest you and you'd like to get involved please contact me or another Board Member and we'll get you in touch with the right people. We can use your help as there are a lot of opportunities for you to get involved.

I hope you will mark your calendars and participate in our Wildlife Damage Management Conference, April 18-21, 2011 in Nebraska City, NE. It will be a great opportunity to present

your research, learn the latest and interact with others devoted to wildlife damage management. Professors and students, we want you at the conference! In fact, the WDMWG will subsidize travel expenses for as many classes and individual students as we can. If you're interested in this, please email me a brief note one week after learning if abstracts are accepted, please include a few details about your financial need and your interest in the conference.

Also, in Fall 2011, we all need to consider attending The Wildlife Society Annual Conference which will be in Waikoloa, Hawaii, the call for abstracts will be posted in mid-January. The WDMWG hopes to play a large role in the conference; we will be proposing

3 symposia and a field trip in addition to holding our annual meeting to keep the momentum rolling.

Thanks for being a member of the WDMWG!

Keep an edge on your knife,

Kurt Kurt VerCauteren, Chair WDMWG



WDMWG Chair - Kurt VerCauteren (on the left).

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MINUTES

TWS ANNUAL MEETING SNOWBIRD UTAH, 28 OCTOBER 2010

Old Business:

Gary San Julian mentioned that the previous meeting minutes were approved online.

Treasurer's Report:

Nicki presented the Treasurer's report. The working group meeting breakfast cost \$719 and the account balance is \$40,367. The goal is to have enough money to set aside to run a conference. *Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was passed.*

In addition, Denise Ruffino and Rich Chipman reviewed the ledger and made recommendations for long term continuity (an audit).

Nomination Committee Report:

Gary, Becky, and Brad Blackwell located 10 candidates for officers and board members. It was difficult to identify candidates, and the working group must find a better way to identify leadership. Total vote was 54 out of 300 members. Below are the results.

Chair-elect:	Mike Mengak (67%)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Chris Croson (57%)
Board Members:	Wendy Arjo (83%)
	Travis DeVault (57%)
	Phillip Mastrangelo (56%)

Membership Committee:

Claire Crowe and Janet Bucknall worked together to determine how to recruit more membership. They developed a 4" x 5" card on heavy stock to hand out to people since most individuals do not realize that they are actually doing wildlife damage management. These cards were handed out at the Welcome Reception. They also recruited a third membership committee member to help with this process. The goal for the next year is to determine how to retain membership and how group members can get to know each other better. Another question they would like to answer is how the group can track new members that signed up as a result of the cards. The idea was to put a code on the cards; however, the TWS website does not yet have the ability for people to enter a code when they join the working group.

Web Page:

The working group web page is a great place to find bylaws and when meetings occur; however, Steve needs help finding other relevant information to add to the page. In addition, he needs help updating it. Since the working group is on the TWS homepage, it is possible that the group may not have much flexibility. The working group needs to reflect "who we are and what we do". If you want to help, please consider joining this committee.

Communications:

Joe puts together the newsletter and does it in color. For the election, he included everyone's bio in the newsletter. The newsletter is always on time, and Gary would like to know where we can submit this exceptional newsletter for an award. Some award possibilities are the APEX writing award or awards from the Berryman Institute. Please submit information for articles that can be included in the newsletter.

Proceedings:

Jay worked on the proceedings. TWS may put together standards for what should be in the proceedings or technical publications. Electronic (CD) copies of the proceedings were made, and 50 hard copies were printed. Only five copies were sold; each copy goes for \$15.90. The other copies must sell so that Cornell/ Jay break even. They were originally going to print "copies on demand" but people expressed an interest in having the hard copy. Several people at the meeting expressed an interest in purchasing a hard copy.

History:

Does anyone have an interest in learning the history of the wildlife damage management working group? Should a new committee be formed?

Publications:

Ben West produced a new publication called Wild Pigs. This publication is endorsed by the working group. Five thousand copies were printed and most of them are gone. This publication is available free online or for \$5 each for a hard copy. The price goes down if the publication is ordered in bulk. Managing human-black bear conflicts is the next publication. *A motion from Ben was made to contribute \$1000 toward the new publication, and the motion was seconded by Scott Barras. Motion passed.*

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WDMWG MINUTES (CONT. FROM PG. 3)

New Business:

Gary San Julian was presented with a plaque for his exceptional contributions as Chair of the TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group. After the presentation of the plaque, Kurt Vercauteren assumed the position of Chair.

Wildlife Damage Management Conference:

Scott provided an update on the next Wildlife Damage Management conference. The meeting will be held from April 18-21 in Nebraska City, NE at the Lied Lodge. A field trip will take place on April 18th to Offutt Air Force Base, a forest, and a zoo. The working group discussed options for the concurrent sessions. Some topic ideas included invasive species, bird strikes, feral swine/cats/geese, rodenticides, bird strikes, wildlife disease, human dimensions, large carnivore management, and repellents. On April 21st, an urban coyote management workshop will be held. The Program Committee includes Tim Veenendaal and Ben West. The group should also consider adding a few students to the program committee. The proceedings from the conference will be edited by Nikki Fry (spelling?) with assistance from Shelley Gray, Kurt, and Claire Crowe.

One \$500 scholarship was provided from NADCA for the last meeting, and there is one more \$500 scholarship available. Other scholarships need to be established. The conference rate is \$235/person now, and Scott wanted to know what the group should add to this amount to increase our budget. Suggestions included a \$30 mark-up for the conference price. The group also suggested adding a box to the conference registration so people can join the working group with signing up for the conference. The group needs to check with TWS. Another idea would be to set up a booth to have people sign up at the conference. Shannon had a booth at the last conference. Claire will ask Shannon if she is willing to do this again.

The working group has sponsored two workshops in the past. The Urban Canada Goose Management Workshop had 18 participants and the group provided \$1,000 for this workshop. The Shooting in Sensitive Environments Workshop had 27 participants and was held from August 3-5 in Lincoln, NE. The group also provided \$1,000 for this workshop.

A motion was made to support the upcoming Urban Coyote Management Workshop at the level of \$1,000. Motion passed. NWCOA may sponsor this workshop too. The workshop will discuss integrated pest management, and one person suggested that the workshop also cover media and human dimensions. The program committee is chaired by Paul. Mike Marlow also was recommended to become a member of this program committee.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NWCOA:

The working group discussed reviewing the practices from NWCOA and their position statements. It was suggested that a Scientific Advisory Committee be formed to help with this process. There were no volunteers from the group. NWCOA is looking for a professional opinion. Scott suggested we start with a committee and then write the MOA.

Feral Pigs:

Jim Miller said that TWS needs a position statement on feral pigs and that members from the working group are needed on that committee. It is possible that TWS could eliminate the official technical review process because of the Berryman Institute pig publication. The group needs a summary of position statements and this would be best presented in some sort of publication.

A full-day symposium on feral pigs will take place at the TWS conference in Hawaii. Also, the TWS bulletin is coming back and will be available online only. Please submit articles to the bulletin.

TWS Conference 2011:

Members of the group discussed the plenary session for the TWS Conference in 2011. Once the theme for next year's meeting is determined, then the working group should see if we can be integrated into the plenary session.

Field trip options that could be provided by the working group were discussed. A field trip could be developed with the wildlife disease working group to get on the ground to show active sites and work in Hawaii. A field trip could look at traditional sites—the biggest threat would be invasive species. The group could explain why this is important.

Ben West and Jim will help develop the feral pig symposium.

Firearms:

A small committee should be formed to develop a tiered level of how much knowledge and education a person needs to use firearms. Level 1 could be how to use the firearm. Level 2 could be how a person applies this method/firearm. One question was how do group members differentiate themselves from the common hunter? A suggestion was to focus on guidelines and trainings. Most firearm directives are agency or entity specific. Can this level of training be unified? A committee could review applicable standards but would not focus on mandatory requirements for group members. Scott Barras will talk to his Regional Director to find a person to sit on this committee. *A motion was made to compile a technical review group to review standards related to shooting as a tool. Motion passed.*

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WDMWG MINUTES (CONT. FROM PG. 4)

Position Statements:

The group discussed re-writing position statements including translocation relative to wildlife damage management. The Wildlife Disease Working Group will talk about this too. *A motion was made to form a committee to review the translocation position statement. Motion passed.*

Translocation is complex and differs by state. AVMA guidelines have shortcomings in the field setting. The Wildlife Disease Working Group will conduct the technical review and may write a position statement. *A motion was made to work with the Wildlife Disease Working Group. Motion passed.*

Scholarships for Students:

Discussion occurred around the idea of providing scholarships for up to three students. Students would be asked to write an essay. A committee is needed to choose who gets a scholarship. One working group member asked why the group would not support more students (for example, six or more). The goal should be to get students to the meetings that would not otherwise attend the meeting. One suggestion was to provide a maximum of \$3,000 or the opportunity for six students to receive a scholarship. *Gary made a motion to form a committee to determine what level of funding should be provided to get students to the meeting. Motion passed.*

Very few State Wildlife Agency members are in the working group. Budget cuts make this complex. A list could be developed of the people that should be involved in the group. Even if people are unable to travel, they could still participate in the group. The group could encourage AFWA to find participants. The group could also ask a State Wildlife Agency person to be a session chair.

Symposia at Next Year's Meeting:

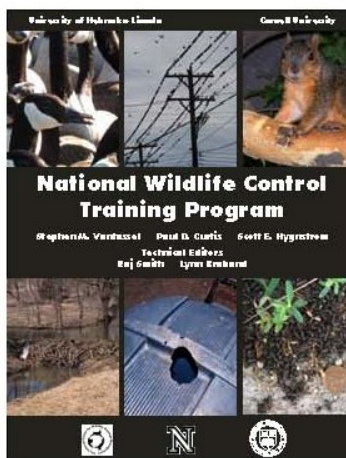
The group decided on having a feral pig symposium in the morning and an invasive species symposium in the afternoon. Ben West will

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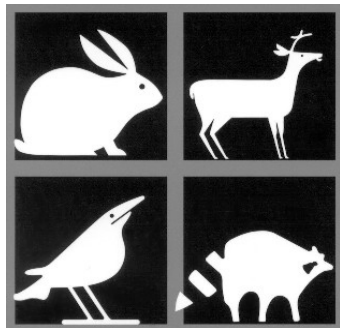
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Society
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The Wildlife Society Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

Our Mission:

The mission of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group is to promote better understanding of the challenges of managing human-wildlife conflicts and to provide a forum for TWS members to advance their skills and knowledge of wildlife damage management practices.

Our Goals:

- Enhance understanding within the profession and various stakeholder groups of the need for responsible wildlife damage management activities.
- Facilitate information transfer to wildlife management professionals and various publics.
- Serve as a professional catalyst, clearinghouse, and conduit for wildlife damage management information.
- Assist TWS Council and resource management agencies with wildlife damage management policy formulation, analysis, and decision making.
- Promote development of new technologies and maintenance of existing cost-effective management tools.

UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, AND EVENTS

January 2011

The first annual Nuisance Wildlife Control Operations Association (NWCOPA) Convention will be held at the Astoria Crowne Plaza in New Orleans, Louisiana from January 13-18, 2011. Full details about the conference, registration, and accommodations can be found at the NWCOPA website (<http://www.nwcoa.com/>).

The Wildlife Control Technologies' (WCT) 17th Annual Wildlife Control Instructional Seminar will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 17-19 2011. The theme of this year's meeting is *"Improving Professionalism in the Wildlife Control Industry"*. This meeting is co-sponsored by the National Pest Management Association. For details about this meeting, visit the WCT website at <http://www.wctseminars.com/>

Western Section of the TWS will be hosting a Natural Resources Communication Workshop on January 10-14 2011 at California State University in Chico, California. The initial deadline for applications is was October 29, 2010 (Friday). Late applications are accepted

for placement on a waiting list. The registration fee is \$749. The workshop is limited to 16 participants. The registration fee is not due until an applicant has been officially accepted into the workshop. For more information contact Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept. Recreation and Parks Management, Calif. State University, Chico, CA 95929-0560. For more information, contact Jon by calling (530) 898-5811, faxing (530) 898-6557, or e-mailing "jhooper@csuchico.edu."

April 2011

The next Wildlife Damage Management Control Conference to be held in Nebraska City, Nebraska from April 18-21, 2011 at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center (<http://www.liedlodge.org/>). Details on registration, abstract submission, and other aspects of the conference will be provided in future issues of *Interactions*.

November 2011

The next Wildlife Society Conference will be held in Waikoloa, Hawaii (The Big Island) on November 5 -10, 2011. For more information, keep checking the TWS website at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/>.